

**Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116  
- Expedited Examining Procedure -  
Examining Group 2624**

**MAIL STOP AF  
N81347JDP**

**Customer No. 01333**



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Hwai-Tzuu Tai, et al.

GRAY LEVEL HALFTONE  
PROCESSING

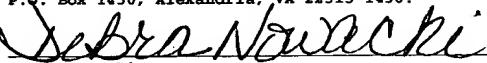
Serial No. 09/629,993

Filed: August 1, 2000

Group Art Unit: 2624

Examiner: James A. Thompson

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop - Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Debra Nowacki  
Date  
11/20/06

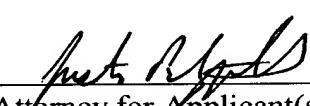
**Mail Stop - AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**DECLARATION UNDER RULE 37 CFR 1.132**

In response to the Office Action dated September 22, 2006, attached hereto is a 12 page Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132, executed by Hwai T. Tai, an inventor of the present application and the cited Tai patent.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Registration No. 52,118

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.



I, Hwai-Tzuu Tai, do hereby declare that:

1. I am an inventor of the above-identified patent application.
2. I have reviewed the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection (“the Rejection”) of the claims of the above-identified patent application set forth in the Office Action dated March 7, 2006 (“the Office Action”), in which U.S. Patent No. 5,396,584 (“the Lee et al. Patent”) has been combined with U.S. Patent No. 5,956,157 (“the Tai Patent”).
3. I am the inventor of the Tai Patent.
4. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1982 with a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. I have worked in the field of image and color science related to electrophotographic processes and digital printing with Eastman Kodak Company from 1982 until 1998 and with NexPress Digital LLC, now fully-owned by Kodak, from 1998 until the present. I am an inventor on more than 30 patents in the fields of image processing and digital printing.
5. It is my opinion that combining the teachings of the Lee et al. Patent with the teachings of the Tai Patent as set forth in the Office Action would lead to serious image quality problems for at least the reasons set forth in my previous declaration dated June 23, 2006 and the additional clarifying reasons set forth below.